ಕೋ-ಆಪರೇಟೀವ್ ಸೊಸೈಟಿಯನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ನಮಗೆ ಲ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ಮತ್ತು ನೀರಾವರಿಯಿಂದ ಬರತಕ್ಕದ್ದೂ ಸೇರಿಕೊಂಡು 200 ಕೋಟಿ ಚಿಲ್ಲರೆ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಬರಬೇಕಾದ ಹಣಕ್ಕೆ ಒಂದು ಕಡೆ 70 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳಿಗಿಂತಲೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಗೆ ಓವರ್‌ಡ್ರಾಫ್ಟ್ ಕೊಡಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಈ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನನಗೆ ಕಂಡುಬಂದ ವಿಚಾರ ಏನೆಂದರೆ ಯಾರಿಗೆ ಸಾಲ ವಾಪಸ್ಸು ಕೊಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಇದೆ ಅಂಥಾವರು ಅನೇಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಕೊಡದೇ ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಬಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾನೂನು ಅನ್ವಯಿಸಿದ ಹಾಗೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಆ ಜನರನ್ನು ಒತ್ತಾಯಪಡಿಸದೇ ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಬಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎನ್ನುವ ನಿದರ್ಶನ ಇದೆ. ಅಂತಹ ಜನರ ಮೇಲೆ, ಶಕ್ತಿ ಇದ್ದು ಕೊಡದಿರುವವರ ಮೇಲೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾರೀತಿಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನೂ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ವಸೂಲ್ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುವ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಬಹುಶಃ ಈ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪಬಹುದು. ಈ ನಂಬಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಈ ಒಂದು ಮಾತನ್ನು ಆಗಲೂ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದೇನೆ, ಈಗಲೂ ಹೇಳುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಹೆಚ್. ಎಸ್. ಸಿದ್ದಪ್ಪ.—ತಾವು ಹೇಳಿದ ಹಾಗೆ ಕೊಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಇದ್ದು. ಚೈತನ್ಯ ಇದ್ದರೂ ಕೂಡ ಇದುವರೆಗೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದಿದ್ದಾರಲ್ಲಾ, ಆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಂದಲೇ ಈ ಅರಿಯರ್ಸ್ ಲಿಸ್ಟನ್ನು ತಯಾರು ಮಾಡಿಸುತ್ತೀರಾ ? ಅಥವಾ ಬೇರೆ ಯಾವ ರೀತಿಯಿಂದ ಅರಿಯರ್ಸ್ ಲಿಸ್ಟನ್ನು ತಯಾರು ಮಾಡುತ್ತೀರಾ ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ. ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸ್.—ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಎಲ್ಲರ ಸಹಕಾರವೂ ಬೇಕು, ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಸಹಕಾರ ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲ, ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರೂ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹಾಯಮಾಡಬಹುದು. ಖಾಸಗಿ ಜನರೂ ಸಹ ವಿಚಾರ ತಿಳಿಸಬಹುದು. ಈ ವಿಚಾರ ತಿಳಿಯುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಬರೀ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಬೇಡ, ಖಾಸಗಿಯಾಗಿಯೂ ವಿಚಾರ ತಿಳಿಯುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸರ್ವ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಸರಕ ರ ಮಾಡುವುದು. ಯಾರು ಸಾಲ ಕೊಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅರ್ಹರು, ಯಾರು ಅರ್ಹರಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್. ಎಸ್. ಸಿದ್ದಪ್ಪ.—ಅಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಲ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವನ್ನು ಸಹ ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕು.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

re : **Lockout at the Amalgamated Electricity Company, Belgaum**

Sri B. B. SAYANAK (Belgaum).—I call the attention of the Minister for Labour to the lockout in the Amalgamated Electricity Company, Belgaum.

Sri AZEEZ SAIT (Minister for Labour).—Madam, the management of Amalgamated Electricity Company, Belgaum have declared illegal lockout from 25th March 1971, the lockout is still continuing even though prohibitory order under section 10, Clause 3 of Industrial Disputes Act and prosecution of management under section 26 (2) thereof have been issued. Over 100 employees who peacefully gheraoed company's officials to-day on the occassion of the anniversary of a illegal lockout demanded lifting of lockout. These employees have been arrested.

The Amalgamated Electricity Company Ltd., Belgaum is one of the 9 licensees in the State which have been granted licenses under section 3 of the Indian Electricity Supply Act, 1910 for distribution and supply of power in the repective licensed areas.

The management of Amalgamated Electricity Co., Ltd., Belgaum alleged on 25th March 1971 that the workmen had, suddenly, gone on

(SRI AZEEZ SAIT)

strike at 8 A.M. on that day, the reasons it was ascertained, being the dismissal of 7 workmen from service for misconduct and for imposing conditions calling on the workmen to give an undertaking that they would restore the workloads which were attended to by workmen before July 1970.

It is reported that the trouble actually started when the workmen started working to rule from 6th July 1970 which was resented to by the management. The management had requested for declaring the Electricity Company as an essential service. The question involved was of work load to be attended to by the workmen. After examination of the request in all its aspects, it was negatived.

The question of workload, which was pending settlement had culminated in a dispute. The management had adopted the stand that unless workload of pre July 1970 were restored by the workmen they would not be in a position to carry on the work of the establishment. After examination of the matter, the Government referred the dispute to the Industrial Tribunal for adjudication (*vide* their order No. FCL 341 LLD 71 dated 11th May 1971). The issues were as follows :—

I (a) Are the management of Amalgamated Electricity Co., Ltd., Belgaum Branch, Belgaum, justified in locking out their workmen from 25th March 1971 ?

(b) Is the lockout declared by the said management legal ?

(c) If not, to what relief are the said workmen entitled ?

II (a) Are the management justified in demanding that the workmen at various levels should undertake to execute workload as it existed prior to May 1970 ?

(b) If not, what should be the workload the various categories of workmen employed by the company should execute.

After the issue of orders making a reference, Government were satisfied that the management refused to take the workmen for employment and that a lockout had continued. The lockout was prohibited under section 10(3) of the Industrial Disputes Act with effect from 10th June 1971. Notwithstanding the prohibitory order the workers were not taken back to duty and lockout was not lifted. Hence, Government took action to authorise prosecution of the management on 23rd July 1971.

The complaint of contravention by the management of the provisions under section 26 (2) of the Industrial Disputes Act for not lifting the lockout was filed on 10th August 1971, in the Court of Judicial First Class Magistrate, Cantonment, Belgaum. It is reported that the management have obtained a stay order from the High Court of Mysore staying the proceeding in this above case.

It is reported that 64 employees have so far been taken to duty, and about 34 workmen in the undertaking have not been allowed to resume duty.

On 31st March 1972 about 54 employees of the establishment are reported to have staged a demonstration before the company. On 23rd March 1972, these employees were arrested, as reported, by the Police on charges of trespass into the chambers of the Resident Engineer. Again on 25th March 1972 the workers are alleged to have gheraoed the Resident Engineer, but due to intervention of the police, no untoward incidence took place. There was also another peaceful demonstration on 27th March 1972.

The situation at present is reported to be peaceful. It may be relevant to state here that the licence granted to the Amalgamated Electricity Company will expire on 10th May 1972. In pursuance of the provisions of Section 6 of the Indian Electricity Supply Act 1910, the Mysore State Electricity Board had exercised its option to purchase the undertaking after expiry of the license period and necessary notice has been issued to the undertaking with the approval of Government. The licensee has, however, challenged the notice issued by the Mysore State Electricity Board and the provisions of the Electricity Act, 1910, under which the notice is issued, in the High Court by a writ petition. The High Court has issued an interim stay order. Action is being taken to move for vacation of the stay order and for early disposal of the case.

No serious disruption of the supply of power to the consumers of Belgaum is reported now.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—The Minister was pleased to state that there was no disruption of the supply of power. It is incorrect because there are many interruptions of supply to the industries and people are suffering. I want to know from the Government why the workers have resorted to work to rule in Bangalore and what is the reason ?

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—I said there is no disruption of power supply. If the members have got definite instances where there is disruption, I will look into the matter and take necessary action. As to why the workers have resorted to work to rule. I have already stated that the management wanted the workmen to give an undertaking that they would restore the workloads which were attended to by the workmen. It was also one of the causes of disharmony between management and labour.

Sri B.B. SAYANAK.—May I ask the Government why they have not insisted on the management to accept the National Industrial Tribunal's award which is the root cause for the workers resorting to work to rule ?

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—The matter is pending before the High Court. I cannot go into the details.

Sri B.B. SAYANAK.—There is the National Industrial Tribunal's Award. That award is not respected by the management and so the workers have resorted to work to rule. Has this fact come to the notice of the Government.

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—We have said that the management has not respected rules and law and therfore the matter ended in failure. The department has referred it to the Industrial Tribunal.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—May I know whether the Government is going to force the management to accept the award of the National Tribunal ?

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—We have to do everything according to rules.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—The management has not cared for anybody either the Government or the workers. The Government has also tried to take it over under the Indian Electricity Supply Act. 1910 ; but the management has challenged the same in the court of law. In view of this does it not lie within your powers to immediately withdraw all the concessions that are given to this Company by the Government?

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—The Government is at it and has ordered for prosecution. We wanted to take it over also. Both the prosecution and take-over of the Company has been challenged by the Management in a criminal revision petition and an iterim stay has been obtained. We are trying our best to see that all the stays are vacated and the moment we get the matter to our grip we will certainly show to the company that the Government can competently deal with them.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—Sir, the management wants to prolong the matters for years together and allow the workers to starve and also defeat the Government in its action. Even now such a company is being given several concessions. I would like to know whether you would stop forthwith all concessions given to the company ?

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—After due examination if there are still any concessions given to this company, after all these happenings, we will certainly examine what best we could do. Secondly; the term of the lease is also going to expire on a particular date. We will examine as to how best we could solve this problem also.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—When there was an emergency the management employed 64 workers. But they have refused to allow about 34 workmen to resume their duties. Why is it so ? Is it not because the Government did not take any drastic action ?

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—I am not prepared to pocket whatever the Hon'ble member says. Government made several attempts in the matter. Government is very alert and alive to the problem. If the Government had not taken any action I don't think the Hon'ble member would have brought up this call attention notice and also there would not have been any discipline in the company.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—In view of the fact that the management did not allow about 34 workers to resume their duties, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to convene a meeting of the management and the employees union to discuss the matter straightaway; and will you please find out alternative employment to these people ?

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—Regarding providing alternative employment to these employees I cannot assure the Hon'ble member. As regards convening of a joint meeting of the management and employees union, I will use all my good offices and will not allow anything left undone, in the matter-

Sri P. A. PAVASHE.—Why the Government is not authorising the workers union to prosecute the management ?

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—We have already prosecuted the management.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—When the management has declared all illegal lockout and when they are continuously committing offenses, why Government is not authorising the Workers' Union to prosecute the management ?

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—I will just examine it if there is any such request made from the Workers' Union.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—Will the Government be pleased to assure that the police protection given at present to the company which is violating the rules will be withdrawn forthwith ?

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—I would like to make it very clear that the police has to be there for maintenance of law and order but not in the way in which the police is reported to have got into the office rooms, bed rooms etc. It is a matter of policy and I would like to take up this matter with the Hon. Chief Minister who is incharge of Home affairs and I will see that as far as protection and maintenance of law and order is concerned there is some limitations, in the interest of workers and the management. Since it is a matter of policy I have to discuss it at great length and examine it.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—During the period of illegal lockout declared by the management *i.e.*, for one year, there were two police vans patrolling in the company. What was the necessity for this, Sir ?

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—That question I cannot answer because I was not here during that period.

MADAM SPEAKER.—Next item, papers to be laid on the Table of the House.